

Open letter to UN Secretary General asks him to resign if he cannot act

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Muslims all over the world have been appalled by the UN's inaction in Bosnia which has permitted the Serbs to get away with genocide. Prominent members of the Muslim community in the UK got together recently and wrote an open letter to the UN Secretary General Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali advising him to resign if he felt powerless to act. The signatories, representing a cross section of the British Muslim community — heads of organisations and religious scholars, authors, academics and journalists; scientists and physicians; businessmen and professionals — spoke for all those who oppose tyranny and injustice in our world and who seek a better tomorrow for everyone. The text of their letter is given below:

"The open season for Muslims continues in Gorazde. Men, women and children are being starved, shelled and killed while the world watches. We all know that their crime is that they are Muslims. The slaughter at Gorazde is another classic case of genocide, of double standards, of the International community's hypocrisy and indifference to suffering in our age. Another line drawn in the sand is eliminated.

"The international community must be ashamed of its double standards; bombing Iraq to enforce safe havens while allowing Gorazde, another safe haven to be butchered. When Muslims took exception to the insults and profanities in the *Satanic Verses*, the so-called liberal world was hysterical with anger. Muslims had become the new barbarians. Civilisation, progress, culture were all threatened by them. Now where are the voices of the so-called civilisation, progress and culture?

"As the UN has failed to protect the Bosnians, Muslim nations must mobilise a campaign to lift the arms embargo. They must arm the Bosnians with the means of self-defence and then let us see how brave the Serbs are against an opponent that can fire back. The Serbs talk of honour. They do not understand the meaning of honour. Honourable soldiers do not fire heavy artillery from the safety of mountain tops into defenceless civilian homes and hospitals nor do they organise murder and rape camps.

"It appears every village being taken, every massacre being committed, every ethnic cleansing put into operation, was planned over many years. With the vast arsenal on the one side and the encircled and impoverished Bosnians on the other, the outcome was a foregone conclusion but the Bosnians upset the plan. They fought back — raped, killed, tortured, starved and betrayed, they still fought.

"At least the Bosnians have

taught the world that they can stand up against impossible odds and suffer the most terrible punishment and yet maintain their sense of dignity and honour. From the Bosnian rubble has emerged the one thing that is in such short supply in the world today and that is dignity. Today Bosnia has become a symbol of courage and defiance throughout the world.

"The outcome at Gorazde was known all along. It was a charade. Western loss of will was a thin disguise for the indifference to the suffering of Muslims. Indeed the Serbs simply represent the savage extreme of hatred for Muslims in our times. And two years after hundreds of thousands have been killed, after the brutalities of the death and rape camps, Europe's answer seems to be to resurrect Lord Owen who was one of the architects of the disaster in the first place. This is *deja vu* of an unending imperialist suppression of Muslims.

"The New World Order, within a few years of its inauguration, has degenerated into an era of uncertainty, the rule of the jungle and loss of confidence in the future. Europe has said 'Never again' after the terrible holocaust in which the Nazis killed the Jews. For the Muslims being slaughtered in Bosnia, in Palestine, in Kashmir the shibboleth has been amended; the cry is 'Again' and 'Again' and 'Again'.

"This letter cannot be written with the cool pen of logic. It is not dipped in ink but the blood of innocent civilians. We apologise for the emotional tone of our letter. We cannot appeal to reason or humanity or conscience. It seems that all these are exhausted. We can only record for the future the intensity of our feelings for we still feel for the suffering of humanity irrespective of caste colour or creed.

We demand firstly that the arms embargo be immediately lifted so that the Muslims can defend themselves. Secondly, that the UN request troops from the OIC (Organisation of the Islamic Conference) so that their presence deters the Serbs as those present, the European Union and Russian Federation appear helpless, confused and aimless (if Russian troops can serve their allies, the Serbs, why not Muslims in Bosnia — or do we face double standards again?). Thirdly, the Serbs be militarily resisted and the ethnic cleansing and genocide stopped. If you cannot implement these steps to prevent the ethnic cleansing and genocide, then the only honourable way out is for you and your staff to resign — and we hope the UN has not been learning the definition of honour from the Serbs."

The latter has been signed by the following:

Jalaluddin Ahmad; Syed Neaz Ahmad; Prof Akbar S Ahmed; Ishtiaq Ahmed; Maulana Sharif Ahmed; M. Saleem Akhtar; Yusuf Akhtar; Farook Alimohamed; Dr Manazir Ahsan; Cllr Mohammed Ajeeb; Akbar Ali; Muazzam Ali; Mukarram Ali; Salman Ali; Mashuq Bin Ally; Dr Amanyar; Ashraf Anjum; M. Ashraf; Mufti Mohammed Aslam; Hafiz Mohammed Yusuf Aswal; Sher Azam; Tariq Azim; Mamoun Azmi; Maulana Qamaruzzaman Azmi; Salem Azzam; Dr Zaki Badawi; Dr Abdul Bari; Zakaria Bawany; Yousuf Bhallak; Dr SM Darsh; Musaddiq Dhalla; Munir Diwan; Khurshid Drabu; MH Faruqi; Dr A A Al-Ghamidi; Maulana Mohammed Abdul Hadi; Dr A F Hamadi; Rizwan ul Haq; Mahjub Haroon; Dr Salim al-Hasan; Dr Salim al Hassani; Liaqat Hussain; Yahya Mohammed Hussain; Osman Iqbal; Dr Hasan Irfan; Yusuf Islam; Dr Maw'il Izzedine; Dr Mansoor Al Jamri; Haroon Kalla; Mahboob Kantharia; Dr A Karim; Ashraf Karim; Haroon Karim; Dr Abdul Majid Katme; Dr Bustam Mohammed Khair; Sami Al Khaldi; Dr Hassan al Khamis; Ms Aina Khan; Imdad Ali Khan; Mohammed Yakub Khan; Dr ZU Khan; Yousouf Al Khoei; Dr Laith Kubha; Hisham Kwalder; Bashir Maan; Dr SA Mabud; Dr Gamal Manna; Bashir Malik; Ayyub Malik; Zafar Malik; Maulana Isa Mansoori; Javeed Maqbool; Maulana Yaqub Miftahi; SA Moid; Hojatul Islam Mohamed Al Mosawj; Dr Tariq Munir; Zafar Munir; Farooq Murad; Basil Mustafa; Fuad Nahdi; Dr M Naseem; Zahoor Niazi; Dr Riyad Nurullah; Ibrahim Okhai; Dr S Aziz Pasha; Dr Junaid Patel; Maulana Abdul Qadir; Maulana Bostan Qadri; Maulana Munir Qasim; Ashraf Qazi; Dr M Qasim; Dr Jafar Qureshi; Maulana Abdul Rashid Rabbani; Nadir R Rahim; Mahmoud Al Rashid; Riyad al Rawi; Maulana Sahid Raza; Dr Fazlur Rehman; Mufti Gul Rahman; Iqbal Sacranie; Riaz Shaikh; Mufti Muhammad Shabbir; Cllr Shuja Shaikh; Dr M Shafi; Imam Abduljalil Sajid; Abdus Salam; Maulana Atiqur Rahman Sambhali; Maulana Abdul Karim Saqib; Dr Ziauddin Sardar; Ghulam Sarwar; Bashir Sattar; Sh. Mohammad El-Sayyadi; Maulana Syed Tufail Hussein Shah; Dr Saeed Al Shahabi; Tufail Shaheen; Dr H Shammari; Cllr Salim Siddiqui; Dr. Kalim Siddiqui; Dr S R Sonyel; Cllr Farooq Subdedar; Dr H I M Surty; Qaiser Tamkeen; Dr. Ayyub Thukar; A M Tramboo; Farook Vali; Ahmed Versi; Dr Muhammad Walid; S M T Wasti; Hafiz Mohammad Yaqub; Mrs Matcen Zaki; Semir Zeidan.